

# Learn**English** Teens

Reading skills practice: An Olympic blog – exercises

Do you remember the 2012 London Olympics? Check out this blogger's memories of a wonderful summer of sport in the capital.

### **Preparation**

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a-e next to the numbers 1-5.

| 1 | The Olympic Games    | a. | an international sports competition for athletes with physical disabilities |
|---|----------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | The Paralympic Games | b. | an international sports competition which is held every four years          |
| 3 | a ceremony           | c. | a person who does work without being paid for it                            |
| 4 | a volunteer          | d. | a piece of gold, silver or bronze which is given to a competition winner    |
| 5 | a medal              | e. | a formal and public event                                                   |

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**New sports** – I have really enjoyed being able to watch sports which are not normally shown on television. Before the Olympics I didn't expect to love watching judo or find myself screaming at the television during a game of wheelchair tennis, but I really got into them. I didn't know anything about goalball before the Paralympics but it became one of my favourite sports.

**The organisation and the atmosphere** – it took seven years of planning and 70,000 volunteers to make everything go well. Many people have said that the organisation was not as perfect as that of the Beijing Games, but there was a much better atmosphere which spread out through the whole city. The volunteers were always friendly and helpful and Londoners even began talking to each other, and visitors, on the underground trains!

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| <b>1. Check your understanding: matching</b><br>Match the sportsperson with their sporting achievement and write a-e next to the number 1–5. |                                                                                        |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 1                                                                                                                                            | Mo Farah                                                                               | a.    | became the first Brtitish woman to win a boxing medal in the Olympics. |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
| 2                                                                                                                                            | Jessica Ennis                                                                          | b.    | became the first disabled person to compete in the Olympics.           |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
| 3                                                                                                                                            | Nicola Adams                                                                           | C.    | won a gold medal in the heptathlon.                                    |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
| 4                                                                                                                                            | Usain Bolt                                                                             | d.    | won gold in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres.                               |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
| 5                                                                                                                                            | Oscar Pistorius                                                                        | e.    | won both the 100 and 200 metres sprint.                                |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Check your understanding: multiple choice<br>Circle the correct answer.                                                                   |                                                                                        |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
| 1.                                                                                                                                           | . How long did the Olympics and Paralympics last?                                      |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                              | a. a couple of m                                                                       | onth  | is b                                                                   | o. two weeks                | C. | seven years                                                            |  |  |  |  |
| 2.                                                                                                                                           | What does the blogger think was the best thing during the opening ceremony?            |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                              | a. the British hur                                                                     | mou   | r b                                                                    | b. the volunteers           | C. | the Queen's appearance                                                 |  |  |  |  |
| 3.                                                                                                                                           | How does the blogger feel about the British athletes' performance?                     |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                              | a. disappointed                                                                        |       | b                                                                      | o. surprised                | C. | proud                                                                  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.                                                                                                                                           | Which of these British athletes was born in a foreign country?                         |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                              | a. Jessica Ennis                                                                       | \$    | b                                                                      | o. Mo Farah                 | C. | Nicola Adams                                                           |  |  |  |  |
| 5.                                                                                                                                           | Which athlete competed in both the Olympics and Paralympics?                           |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                              | a. Usain Bolt                                                                          |       | b                                                                      | o. Oscar Pistorius          | C. | Mo Farah                                                               |  |  |  |  |
| 6.                                                                                                                                           | Which sport was completely new to the blogger?                                         |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                              | a. wheelchair ter                                                                      | nnis  | b                                                                      | o. goalball                 | C. | judo                                                                   |  |  |  |  |
| 7.                                                                                                                                           | How did the London Olympics compare to the Beijing Olympics, according to the blogger? |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                              | a. It was better o<br>but the atmos<br>wasn't as goo                                   | sphe  |                                                                        | o. It was very similar.     | C. | It was not as well<br>organised, but there was<br>a better atmosphere. |  |  |  |  |
| 8.                                                                                                                                           | What did the blogger say changed about Londoners during the Olympics?                  |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                              | a. They voluntee                                                                       | ered. | . b                                                                    | b. They watched new sports. | C. | They talked to each other on the trains.                               |  |  |  |  |
| Discussion                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                        |       |                                                                        |                             |    |                                                                        |  |  |  |  |

What are your memories of the London Olympics 2012? Did your country win many medals?

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